

# DRAMARAMA 2

(Theatre skills for kids)

**The Aim:** The aim of Dramarama is to improve the theatrical skills (stagecraft, singing, dancing and backstage duties) of children aged 8 – 17 in the area in and around the village of Woolsery, North Devon.

**The Background:** Woolsery has a history of providing good quality concerts and pantomimes very year. Recently, it has been more difficult for the director to get enough sufficiently talented children to take part in these shows, partly because of the decline of drama and music instruction in schools and the other interests to which young children are subjected these days. It was obvious from the last pantomime that lots of children wanted to take part but they lacked the skills required and time restraints made it difficult to train them to a suitable standard 'on the job'. Dramarama is designed to fill this gap.

**The Action:** Children will be invited to register for an initial six week course of instruction on Saturday mornings between 10 and 12 am. It is intended to have four adult course instructors, each with his/her own discipline:

Stuart Rickard	(Course Director): Stagecraft, acting, stage etiquette and backstage management.
Barbara Reader:	Dance, movement and stage make-up.
Margaret Rickard:	Singing and musical instrument tuition.
Val Snape/Rebekah Marshall:	It is envisaged that most of the applicants will be girls, so Val and Rebekah will act as Stuart's assistants, so that a female presence is available in all sections.

All of the above persons have been connected with stage productions in its various forms for many years and are ideally qualified to pass on their skills.

Also available: instruction in sound and lighting engineering and speciality make-up.

The session will be spent assessing the children's existing abilities so that a course of instruction can be determined. After that, each session will be divided into three, thirty-five minute periods, for stagecraft, music and dance, with a five minute break between each.

It is hoped that the results of the course will be seen in a public concert later in February 08, where the children will demonstrate their newly acquired skills in some or all of the three main disciplines.

Parents are to be charged £5.00 per session to cover hire of the facilities and instructor's expenses.

The instructors hope that parents will encourage their children to attend the course, although it is important that only genuinely interested children should apply. The course is not to be used as a cheap baby-sitting service.

**Health and Safety:** The facilities at Woolsery are among the best in the area; modern, clean and safe. Three out of four of the instructors have a CRB disclosure certificate issued under another 'hat'. It is not currently intended to apply for the other CRB certificate until it has been decided that the course will run for longer than the initial period. However, a policy of not having children and adults in a one-to-one situation will be in place at all times. Parents can have this arrangement explained to them if they wish.

Please note: While every care will be taken to look after your child during the Dramarama sessions, the tutors cannot be held responsible for their safety before or after the event. Parents should endeavour to deliver and collect their child on time. In an emergency, a child under 13 years who is not picked up within ten minutes of the end of a session will stay within the care of at least two tutors at the hall until collected or other arrangements are made. Children under 13 will not be left alone at any time//

**Discipline:** The local children are generally well behaved. However, a football-style system of discipline will be in place, i.e. a verbal warning, followed by a yellow card. A child receiving two yellow cards during the course will miss the next session. In the unlikely event that disciplinary action is required, it is expected that a verbal warning will be sufficient.

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REGISTRATION FORM

Parents wishing to register their children for Dramarama should complete this form. Children will not be permitted to attend without a registration form completed in their name. A separate form is required for children from the same family. Further forms are available at the hall, Andrews' Garage and the Village Shop. Completed forms should be handed in at Greenaway House, Woolsery as soon as possible but in any event before 31st December 07. We can take up to 30 children. If more than that number apply, places will be awarded on a strictly 'first come' basis. Please note: The answers on this registration form will be treated as confidential and will only be seen by the four instructors. If necessary, the form can be delivered under sealed cover to: Stuart Rickard, Greenaway House, Woolsery, EX39 5QT

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Will there be a parent/guardian at this number between 10 – 12 am on Saturdays? Yes ( ) No ( )

If 'No' please provide an alternative telephone number where a parent/guardian may be contacted: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's age: \_\_\_\_years/\_\_\_\_months. Note: the minimum age for entry is 8 years and the maximum, 17 yrs 10 months

Has the child ever taken part in any theatrical production of any kind, outside of school? No ( ) Yes ( )

(if yes, details): \_\_\_\_\_

Has the child had instruction in drama, singing or dance at another place other than at school? No ( ) Yes ( )

(if yes, details): \_\_\_\_\_

Is there anything in the child's medical history which would restrict his/her activity at Dramarama? (Allowances will be made for children with disabilities, if necessary) No ( ) Yes ( )

(If yes, details): \_\_\_\_\_

There are to be six sessions. The cost is £5.00 per child per session. Payment has to be in cash initially. If the sessions are successful there could be other methods of payment in the future. Pay on arrival. Do not send money with this form. The session times are 10 a.m. – 12 a.m. on Saturdays starting 12<sup>th</sup> January through to 16<sup>th</sup> February incl. Children taking part MUST be available for the concert on 23/24 V February.

The child should come prepared to get hot and sweaty! We suggest leotards or light sports wear with gym shoes/trainers (not black-soled). The child should also have a warm top to wear after or between periods.

There will two breaks of five minutes during which time the child can consume his/her own snack or drink. We recommend fruit or a fruit bar to eat and fruit juice or water to drink.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS CONSENT: I agree to allow my child \_\_\_\_\_ to attend Dramarama and will take full responsibility for making sure he/she arrives and leaves on time

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_